

The Dead Horse

May 2009

DISPATCH

A newsletter by and for the volunteers of Dead Horse Ranch State Park



DHRSP Fashion Statement

Dave Penny, master volunteer, irrigator, Dave Penny, sports a definite new fashion trend as he waters the pines during these warmer months. The temperature was in the low 70s in April when this photo was snapped by Jim Harris. We are wondering what he will wear when summer really does make an appearance! Stay tuned..."

Birds Of Prey

Arizona Wildlife Center brought a variety of birds and a wealth of information to the April 17 interpretive program in Quail Loop. This Great Horned Owl was a favorite and posed for photos. Other birds of prey exhibited included a red-tailed hawk, burrowing owl, red-headed vulture and falcon, along with a couple of snakes.



What a Terrible Web We Weave



Volunteers Maryan Pharo, Jim Harris, Helen Kemp, and Norm and Nan Hephner created this 20 by 20-foot spider web in purple rope and black and white string to hang in the ceiling of the kids' tent at the Birding Festival. They finally finished it March 28. In the photo, posing with the completed web, are Helen, Maryan, and Nan. It was back-breaking work and everyone who worked on it hopes it lasts many years, because they don't want to do another one.

***"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us.
What we have done for others and the world remains."***

At a recent re-dedication ceremony, Les Bovee, manager at Dead Horse Ranch State Park, recalled memories of volunteers and a ranger who are honored on a volunteer memorial set up a few years ago, behind Quail Loop Campground. Volunteers spent a lot of time this spring extending the rock area around the memorial, removing brush and cutting stumps and suckers. Old name plates were removed and new ones made and installed, and rosemary bushes were planted at the head of the stone. Names on the memorial are Ranger Ray Herrera, and volunteers Velma Reib, Ed Reib, Darla Reib, Larry Blitsch, Leland Percy and Tom Carpenter. Plaques were also added this year for Al McCormick and Dick Countryman. The memorial was set up by park management and volunteers to honor the service of those who have died who gave so much to the park while they were living.



Al McCormick



Dick Countryman



The site, chosen by Les, is a quiet place to sit and contemplate the distant mountains, trees and canyons, and to remember friends and loved ones.



Attending the re-dedication were, left to right, Laurie Blitsch, Helen Kemp, Maryan Pharo, Judi Mangels, Tom Sanor, Keith Mangels, Bob Akey, Norm Hephner, Jim Harris and Nan Hephner.



Baby Girl Christianson



Audra and George Christianson were blessed with a new member of the family: Kelsey Brianna. She was born on April 13th and weighed in at 7lbs 12oz. She has black hair! Everybody is doing well. Kelsey is being carefully held by her oldest sister, Meghan. Also helping Mom with the new baby are sisters Cassidy

Hi Carolyn, Thanks for the April issue of the DHRSP newsletter. If you have a moment, you can now view many of my DHRSP photos at my Flickr site using the following link: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/bellrock>. Go to the DHRSP sets (9 sets) of various categories of wildlife rather than following the photostream in which the images are not organized.

I accumulated this image collection during my 1 1/2 years of living in Cottonwood. As you know, I am using the park almost daily during the early morning hours and usually carry some camera gear in my backpack.

The collection will change with time as more images and missing animal and plant IDs will be added.

You may forward my e-mail to park volunteers or rangers or simply anyone interested in wildlife. I also welcome critique and suggestions.

Best regards, Roswitha Heintz
(Editor note: If you would like to communicate with Roswitha, please send me an email and I will forward it on to her.)



Roswitha Heintz has been taking pictures of DHRSP for 1 1/2 years. She climbed to the top of the bluffs, in the Fall, to capture the beauty of the Lagoons. She is spotted many mornings off the beaten path, taking pictures of what most of us would never notice. She has a unique eye. Thank you Roswitha for sharing your beauty.

DHRSP Guests: Javelinas!!

Camper in Quail Loop brought their cameras to Volunteer Norm and Nan Hephner's site when these javelina showed up. Nan feeds the birds, and the hairy fellas moved in to clean up bird seed that had fallen on the ground. The opportunistic peccaries never miss a chance for a meal, even to the point of opening a covered bucket at Volunteer Jim Harris and Maryann Pharo's site, devouring their trove of pecans.



Letters To The Volunteers From The Volunteers



Hi Eric: Thanks for the tips on visiting the Mesas. We really enjoyed visiting First Mesa and finding out more about Hopi culture. The folks at Second Mesa made us very welcome as well when we parked at the Cultural Center. We enjoyed our visit to Canyon de Chelly also. The rocks are so beautiful, talk about Mother Nature's artwork!!!

We had to stay over an extra day in Chenle because of high winds that caused a sand storm like we have never seen before. Then when we got up to leave the next morning it had snowed overnight. Talk about having an adventure. However, because the winds had dropped we thought we should get out of town while the going was good, so we left for Albuquerque, NM. Lots of snow around, but none on the roads so we were OK. By mid-day the winds had picked up so by the time we arrived in Albuq. we had a devil of a time setting up. Blowing sand made it impossible to see - we needed goggles. And trying to get the door open and closed was another major problem. Anyway by this morning the winds had calmed and after getting laundry done and the rig cleaned up a bit inside (the outside is another story), we spent the afternoon in Old Town Albuq. It was beautiful and there was lots going on including a mock gun fight. We really enjoyed our day.

We will be heading out again tomorrow making for Branson, MO. Hope to spend a day or two there and see a show before turning north. Best to all, Anne & Tom Howe

Hi Carolyn, Thanks for the news letter, the first we have gotten since we left. All three greyhounds have passed, however we have 2 new ones. If you have any contact info on Jeannett and Ralph would like to know how to contact them. We are in Patterson, MO tonight and start a position with Vermont State Parks in May, and back to Coffeyville, KS in Aug. Had a nice winter in Mission Texas with Dad (90) who drove his motorhome down from Maine. The first I have not worked since I retired. Dad & I got several rounds of golf in and had a chance to relax a little. Thanks again for the news letter, really liked Bob's cow. Regards, Bob & Anita Bligh
(Editor note: sent all the missing newsletters out the next day)

Hi All: After Nancy and I returned to Arizona, from California, in early March, we shifted gears, packed some stuff, and flew to Costa Rica for two weeks. It was a great trip. We went with few expectations other than surfing for Nancy and paragliding for Pete. We got that and a whole lot more. We chose the Central Pacific Coast town of Jaco (pronounced "Haco"), because of its reputation for mild surf and a nearby paraglider flying site. Another pilot was also staying at the hotel. Don Herres from Nanaimo, BC and his family were on a two week adventure like us.

The flying was challenging at this thermal site. We launched from a ridge top, about 750 feet above the pastures below. The beach, 2.5 miles away was the daily objective. We regularly had flights getting to altitudes of several hundred to a couple thousand feet over the launch. To make the beach one had to work the rising thermals to gain enough altitude to be 2,200 feet above the launch or 3,000 feet above sea level. Pete managed this once. Don, who has been flying for 15 years, made it three times. It was a fantastic flying adventure for Pete.

For surfing, Pete was Nancy's toddy. Surfing conditions varied throughout our stay. In the first week, a full moon and very high tides resulted in bigger than expected surf (for Nancy) but she still managed to get in a few good rides every day. During the last week, the tides and surf were a bit more moderate making Nancy a happy surfer. The water is warm, the beach sand is blistering hot, the cervezas are cold, and life is good.

We also visited two Costa Rican National Parks. Our best hike was with friends Darrell and Lorna Smith, who live in Costa Rica in the winter. They own an old wooden salmon troller, like ours, in Washington, which is how we met. They are retired Forest Service Biologists and gave us a wonderful jungle tour in the Carara National Park.

See photos: <http://picasaweb.google.com/Paradude.Surfdiva/CostaRica2009#>

As they say in Costa Rica, "Pura Vida"
Cheers, Pete and Nancy Hardy

To you, and all involved in the preparation of the Dispatch, I send Marianne's and my gratitude. We enjoy reading the news, updates, etc. Hope to get back there someday. Thanks, again, for your efforts. Ed Iwanski

Volunteer News

Coming & Goings

Dates to Remember

May

- * Norm & Nan Hephner leave April 30th.
- * John & Wanda Ward depart April 27th.
- * Jim & Maryan Harris leave April 30th.
- * Laurie Blitsch is leaving April 30th.
- * Karen & Emerson Trushel depart April 30th.
- * Wayne & Helen Kemp leave April 30th.

- 11 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway
- 25 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway

May Milestones

(Birthdays & Anniversaries)

- 7-Maxine Bean
- 21-Bill Bean
- 26-Jim & Marilyn Aker (1962)
- 29-Maryan & Jim Harris (1994)

Mickelson Run

There was a lot of support staff for the Mickelson Run through and around DHRSP on April 18th. The marathon was in memory of Brian Mickelson (City Manager for Cottonwood), before his untimely death while running in preparation for a marathon last year.



Wolf's Robe Speaks



Wolf's Robe, a Shawnee Indian now living in Sedona, presented a well-received program last weekend at the Interpretive Program in Quail Loop. He demonstrated ancient flutes and played original songs. He also played newer flutes and talked about his pride in his Indian heritage. The programs have been well attended this year, in spite of cool and sometimes windy weather.



B E E S



Bees have moved into Raven Loop this week! That buzzing sound turned out to be a large gathering of bees between the Maintenance 1 and 2 spots. Another swarm is forming across Raven near a campsite. Both swarms are getting larger, and the spot near the campsite has been roped off to protect visitors.

Coop Update



The chicken venture is a family 4-H project. Fresh eggs may soon be on the menu.

Return of the Ancestors Gathering

Opening Ceramones included the Dance of the Condor from the Southern Americas, in Colombia (the land of the Condor). Joined after with the Dance of the Eagle from the Northern Americas, New Mexico (the land of the Eagle). And the Dance of the Central Americas, Mexico, brought everyone to their feet and join in the dance of uniting us all in one vision to save and heal our planet's Earth, Water, and Air.



The four nations of man: red, black, white, and yellow gather together to honor and heal Mother Earth.



Smudging (above) of the participants as they enter the sacred circle (left). Building of the Sweat Lodges. Volunteers Carolyn Meehan and Trish Mucher assisted.



Participants of the ceremonies at DHRSP on April 21st

